

Message Text

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P:JJSISCO

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TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 214855

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, XF, TS, US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT - MESSAGE FOR
PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO
PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL AGREE THAT LAST WEEK'S AGREEMENT
BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL CONSTITUTES A FURTHER SIGNIFICANT
STEP TOWARD A JUST AND LASTING PEACE FOR ALL THE NATIONS
AND PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST. WE ARE FULLY AWARE
THAT THIS AGREEMENT MUST BE FOLLOWED BY EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE
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PROGRESS ON OTHER FRONTS, INCLUDING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. THE PRESIDENT HAS REAFFIRMED OUR INTENTION TO REMAIN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS, AND NOT TO TOLERATE A STALEMATE.

IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT PRESIDENT SADAT IS PURSUING THE SAME SORT OF FAR-SEEING, SOUND AND COURAGEOUS POLICY, BRAVING CRITICISM FROM THOSE WHO DISAGREE, AS YOU HAVE ALWAYS DONE. I KNOW THAT YOU WOULD PREFER, AS WE WOULD, TO MOVE FORWARD MORE RAPIDLY ON ALL ASPECTS OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. YOU CAN BE CERTAIN THAT PRESIDENT SADAT ALSO SHARES THIS VIEW. HOWEVER, HE HAS COME TO RECOGNIZE, AS WE HAVE, THE REALITY THAT THE ONLY MEANS OF MAINTAINING MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE IS BY TAKING ANOTHER MORE LIMITED STEP AT THIS TIME.

IT IS OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS, OF WHICH LAST WEEK'S AGREEMENT IS AN IMPORTANT PART, PROVIDES THE BEST CHANCE TO SEE THE MIDDLE EAST TURN FROM A SUCCESSION OF WARS TO THE PROSPECT OF PEACE IN WHICH THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF ALL WILL BE ACCOMMODATED.

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT SOME ELEMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE TAKEN A NEGATIVE VIEW TOWARD LAST WEEK'S AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. I BELIEVE IT SIGNIFICANT THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN PUTTING OUT MUCH THE SAME LINE. I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THE UNITY OF THE ARAB STATES IS THE BEST MEANS TO BUILD ON LAST WEEK'S AGREEMENT SO AS TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM FOR PEACEFUL PROGRESS.

THEREFORE, I HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT, IN DISCUSSIONS IT MAY BE HAVING WITH OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS, AND IN ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN PARTICULAR, WILL EXPRESS ITS POSITIVE VIEW OF LAST WEEK'S AGREEMENT AND ITS SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT SADAT'S LEADERSHIP IN THE OVERALL ARAB CAUSE, AND WILL EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR A FORWARD-LOOKING, POSITIVE VIEW.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,
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HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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